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Rector of the University of Würzburg). One does not leave out of sight in commenting on these omissions the fact that the present book aims to be popular, not encyclopedic. Furthermore: There is scanty reference to recent Mendelian work. And there is altogether too brief notice of the evolutionary work of paleontologists: the extraordinary studies of Hyatt are inadequately referred to and there is no mention at all of his pupils, Jackson and Grabau. And while Jaekel's epistasis is summarized, there is no reference to the kindred and earlier neotænia of Boas. In the treatment of the environmental factor there is similar unevenness: for while there is given an excellent and detailed account of Wagner's speculations, there is scanty mention of the distinguished services of Professor J. A. Allen, and his name, by the way, does not occur in the index—but this proves nothing, for the index is sadly defective. In general, however, from the point of view of book-making, one does not find serious defects. Printers' slips are not numerous, but one can find them, if he looks hostilely, as he can in any other book. Thus Perameles—even in these days when ill-spelling commends itself to taxonomists—would hardly recognize itself as *Perameles* on page 280. And here and there careless or inaccurate expressions have not been eliminated in the proof. Thus, it is stated that the lung sacs of birds penetrate "through hair fine holes into all the bones," and that in "many fishes the female may never even see the male at spawning time."

BASHFORD DEAN

*An Introduction to Vegetable Physiology.*

By J. REYNOLDS GREEN. Second edition. Pp. xx + 459, 182 figs. in text. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. \$3.00.

The first edition has been favorably known for a number of years and the publication of a second edition aroused the expectations that it might be further improved and brought up to date. However, in the volume before us we find little change from the original imprint. It is indeed to be regarded more as an American reprint than as a second edition in the proper sense of the word. It is noticeable

that there is no new preface and that the one printed is word for word the same as the first edition with the exception that the date has been omitted. In fact, throughout the book the plates are almost identical, if not wholly so. The one important difference is that Chapter VIII. of the first edition, entitled "Respiration," has been shifted and amalgamated with Chapter XIX. which deals with the release of energy, the two together constituting Chapter XVIII. of the new edition under the title "Energy of the Plant." This is undoubtedly an improvement and renders the presentation of the nutrition phenomena, already well treated, much more logical and comprehensible. Some smaller changes are to be noted in the alteration of introductory paragraphs to certain chapters and the substitution of the more modern word protein for the older term proteid.

Despite the fact that so little new material has been added, it remains one of the best shorter reading books in physiology that we have in English, particularly in the matter of nutrition physiology, which is treated very much more fully than the growth phenomena. It is perhaps to be regretted that more was not done to amplify the second edition, but if its publication in this country will serve to bring it more to the attention of students here, it will serve a useful purpose.

HERBERT M. RICHARDS

*SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES*

THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE Chicago Academy of Sciences held its annual meeting on Tuesday evening, January 14, 1908, at the academy's building in Lincoln Park. The report of the secretary showed that the work of the academy had been pushed steadily forward during the year and that much had been accomplished in promoting educational matters of a scientific nature among the schools and citizens of Chicago.

Monthly meetings and Friday evening popular lectures have been maintained by the academy, in addition to a number of lectures by other societies, under the auspices of the academy. The most notable of these lectures